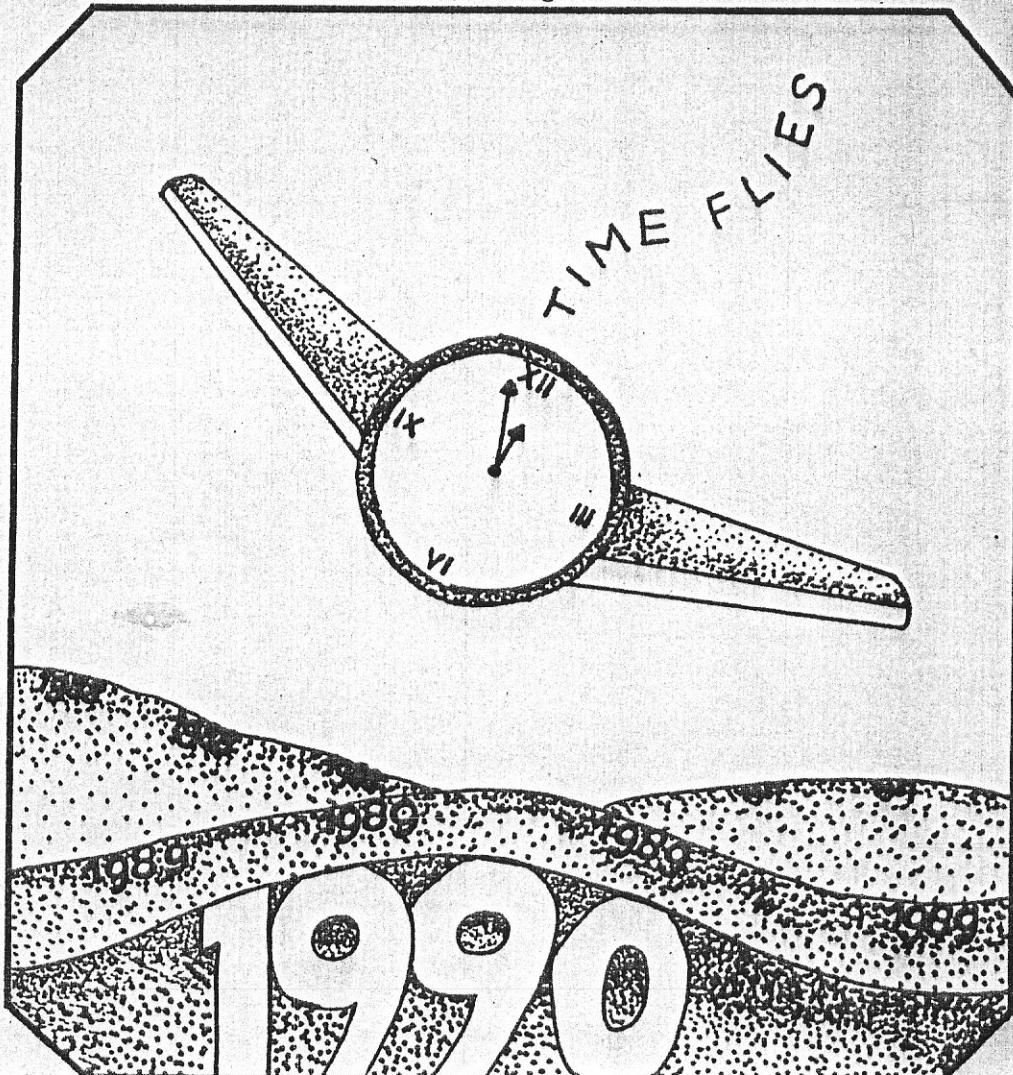


THE magazine for free radio enthusiasts.

# « FRS\* GOES \* DX »

Volume 8      Issue Number 89/90

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# FRS GOES DX INFO

"FRS GOES DX" is a monthly radio magazine which informs about radio in general and free radio in particular. "FRS GOES DX" is a publication of the Free Radio Service Holland, an independent short wave station, broadcasting to Europe since August 1980.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

An annual subscription costs DM 21.50 / £ 21.50 / E 6.25 (Europe). If you live outside Europe an annual membership costs US\$ 13.00. Payments are accepted in cash or via eurocheques. Other cheques are also accepted but then 15% has to be added!

Sample copies can be obtained for three inc's! 4x 80pf or 8x 40pf German stamps/ 4x 75ct Dutch stamps/ £ 1.00 cash or st.

## CORRESPONDENCE-ADDRESS

"FRS GOES DX",  
P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten,  
The Netherlands.

Use this address for:

- = renewing your membership
- = correspondence with regard to the magazine
- = complaints about sending

Letters, news, comments etc. are more than welcome and highly appreciated!

## ADVERTISING

For full or half page advertisements contact us and we'll make a quotation. Small ads: non-commercial adverts, relating to the radio-hobby, are free for members.

Commercial adverts (small) cost DM 3.00 / £ 1.00 / £ 3.00 / 3 inc's. We also accept German, Dutch or English stamps.

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COPY of news/features etc. from "FRS GOES DX" is only possible by permission of the editor and with mention of the source.

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DEADLINE CONTRIBUTIONS: Jan. 20th

## EDITORIAL

Haste makes waste. This conclusion may be drawn after the October issue of this magazine! There was a lot of hurry simply we were not on schedule as far as the deadline was concerned. The result was that it was forgotten to put '88' on front of the magazine. Even worse was the fact we did forget to enclose the promised 4 extra pages....Quite annoying since they were indeed printed and just waiting to be included. Our sincere apologies!!

Even my own mummy, one of our honorary members was upset. Anyway, WELCOME in the last 1989 but moreover the last 1980's issue of this very magazine! We started publishing this mag in the Summer of 1982 and now, some 7½ years later, the magazine is alive and kickin'. Last year things have been very positive for "FRS Goes DX". Not only quite a number of new members but also- and that's really fantastic- hardly anybody who did not extend his membership. Talking about renewals, there are many members who've to renew their membership for the coming 12 months. A n urgent request: please send us your renewal as soon as possible. That makes things a lot easier looking at the administration. And make no mistakes with the address. The Dedemsvaart address is past, finished, over, averdeci etc. FRS-Holland will ring out the 1980's and 1989 with a big and fantastic X-Mas broadcast Sun Dec. 24th. Don't miss it!!

Special thanks to Marten & Chris for their great work for this issue. Also thanks to all the others sending in news!

We are still looking for someone in the UK who's willing to send us his SW Sunday morning/afternoon loggings. 73's,

Peter

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# «FRS Newscorner»

Welcome in this NEWScorner for the month of December. First of all a big HELLO to a couple of new readers:

- |  |                 |                 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| * Ralf Pokar                             | - Leonberg      | - West-Germany  |
| * Calum McLeod                           | - Isle of Lewis | - Scotland      |
| * Wilfried Rillaerts-Neerijse-Huldenberg | - Belgïe        |                 |
| * Jürgen Baucke                          | - Aachen        | - West-Germany. |

Our November trm- the return of FRSH after a 5 month's break-was aired on the 4th Sunday. Perhaps those who listened heard our special message explaining the fact the trm went out Nov. 26th instead of the 19th. The post (or better: the cassettes) were too late. This can be fully blamed on the Dutch PTT since the little package was sent by special messenger. It had to arrive on Saturdays but finally arrived on Sunday afternoon. So the 3rd Sunday trm had to be cancelled and was aired a week later on 7309 kHz with good strength. Conditions weren't the best that Sunday and there seemed to be quite some fading. Most rec. reports were good and some even very good. Positive is (was) also the number of contributions for the coming X-Mas broadcast. It will be a very special happening and you may not miss it next Sunday! The schedule for the X-Mas broadcast reads as follows:

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 09.54 | Opening: Station ID's & Station-tune  |
| 10.02 | Danny Kay X-Mas Show (German)   |
| 10.45 | 'FRS Goes DX'- Peter Verbruggen   |
| 11.30 | FRS X-Mas Party 1989 with Gerd, Joop ter Zee, Bobby Speed and Peter Verbruggen. |
| 14.30 | Mark Stafford Special X-Mas Show  |
| 15.30 | Close Down.   |

## FRS SALES PRODUCTION



These shows (more than 5 hours!!) are going to be aired on possibly two frequencies: 7310 or 7314.5 kHz in the 41 mb and 6220 kHz in the 48 mb. The latter isn't 100% certain Just try it on your receiver!!

All times mentioned are ofcourse in CET! During the shows all the season's greetings will be handled & aired. Also in the Danny Kay Show. But there's much more. It will be our 10th annual & traditional X-Mas Party and this is something we want to commemorate!!

ALSO THIS MONTH TWO ATTRACTIVE OFFERS FROM OUR SALES LISTS!  
CAROLINE/R.N.I.

A 60 MIN. TAPE OF CAROLINE ON 389M JUNE 1973. D.J. IS PAUL ALEXANDER (RUSLING). ALSO THE RNI ENGLISH SERVICE WITH BOB NOAKES IN FM QUALITY. PRICE: DM 6.00/£ 2 FRS-HOLLAND 10TH X-MAS PARTY 1989

FRS-HOLLAND IN EXCELLENT STEREO. THIS IS A DIRECT COPY FROM THE MASTER. YOU CAN ORDER 60 MIN. AS DESIRED OR THE WHOLE 5½ HOUR BROADCAST! RECORDED ON QUALITY CASS. PRICE PER HOUR: DM 6.50/ £ 2.10 .

THE WHOLE PROGRAMMING CAN BE OBTAINED FOR DM 29 / £ 9.40 !!

ONLY ONE CAN BE THE CHEAPEST.....

**Order Now**

frsgoes dx

There will be a special FRS X-Mas QSL-card available. Remember: this QSL will only be sent to those sending in correct rec. reports for our Dec. broadcast! There will also be a special FRS 1989 X-Mas competition. And this competition will be aired three times during the FRS X-Mas Party between 11.30 and 14.30 CET. So have your tape-recorder ready! There will be 3 nice prizes for the winners. Winners will be announced in our January or February broadcast. Depends on the fact how quick your December mail reaches our mailing address! FRS deejays will play their favourite 1980's tracks as well. All in all it's more than worth while to give a good listen next Sun. Some additional info with regard to the competition: The competition will be covering 9 years of FRS X-Mas broadcasts. Extracts will be played of previous FRS X-Mas Shows. Part of these extracts are pieces of records which were a hit at the time of that particular broadcast. In this way you have to find out from which year a particular a particular extract is. A total of 9 extracts are being played and the correct sequence is the key to the answer. For instance: 1983-1986-1988-1980-1985-1981-1987-1982-1984. Not easy, therefore a tape/cassettewriter is ideal next Sunday.

January will be the month we introduce (finally!!) a new FRS sound. The 3rd Sun broadcast will be aired January 21st on 7310. New promos, new jingles, new ideas, a powerful FRS sound and a few new slogans. These are the ingredients for a new and even better FRS-Holland into the 1990's! We are awaiting your comments.....

And now a story about jingles.... It has been mentioned a few times: our new jingles weren't finished off in time. In fact we had the hope to introduce the new package in October. This could have been reality if..... Read the following little story and you'll understand.

Right after the June broadcast, Peter Verbruggen started to write the lyrics for a new series of voice-overs. This list included programme-jingles, new slogans and 4 new promos. Two for this very magazine and two for FRS Sales Productions. In addition a number of extra lyrics were written taking into account that sometime in future some new and fresh jingles will be added. These jingles won't be used now, they are already made for the future when there is a time when we feel our jingles need some refreshing. We were lucky to have somebody in the States having a perfect voice to do this job for us. In the course of July, a long list of lyrics were sent to the USA and at the end of August we received a master-tape plus cassette with the material we needed for the new FRS package. In the mean time we were very busy finding suitable production music and production sound effects to be used for remixing the US voice-overs. We were very lucky: we got hold of a complete CD production music library containing over 60 CD's with all types of instrumental music in various lengths and tempos! Ideal for us. And now comes the 'problem': after discussing the matter we came to the conclusion that the audio-quality of the American voice-overs was not good enough to remix with the high quality CD tracks. Finally it was decided to send the cassette back to the States asking the guy to re-record the whole lyrics. Also some new ideas were added to the already existing ones making the whole list even longer... That package was sent early November to the USA. We already gave up hope to receive the re-recorded package when Fri December 8th a new package arrived....!

frsgoes dx

This time the quality was satisfactory. And so we are able to do all the necessary remixes. Ingredients: the US voice-overs, production music and production sound effects. There will be a new Signature Tune being used before official pxs are commenced, a new top of the hour jingle (remember the old one ..'Spring, Summer, Winter or Fall: FRS beats them all'), new reminders (very short promos), new jingles for the DX-Show and a number of new general programme jingles. In addition to this we ordered a small package of new sonovox jingles in England. All in all it will give us a fresh, new sound. Listen yourself in Jan.!

### A LITTLE CONSIDERATION....

With all the joy and happiness of X-Mas, the positive developments with regard to this magazine and the promising changes as from January onwards one may not forget there also are a few or at least one point which 'deserves' to be mentioned. A negative development. It has already been mentioned in last year's 'FRS Goes DX' editions: the growing lack of good response for the SW broadcasting stations. It seems not one single SW station is able to escape from this dangerous worrisome situation. Dangerous because the effect could be that certain stations are getting tired of the lack of response from listeners. This situation can/will develop till they pack it in. Let's be honest: the short wave scene isn't what it used to be in the late 70's/early 80's. Then there were less stations but the average QUALITY was much better. Is it possible that, because there are so many different stations, the attention of the SW DX'er is spread upon a higher number of stations thus resulting in sending less letters to certain stations? It's just a theory. When there are less stations your number of letters to one particular stations is higher than when there are many stations. Perhaps the latter theory is especially relating to the so-called QSL hunter. But there must be more. The quality has dropped in compare with some 10 years ago. That could be a reason some DX-ers gave up listening to the SW bands on a Sunday or they switch off their receiver as soon as they discover there's nothing interesting on air. I'm pretty sure there still are lots and lots of (potential) listeners. But the number of letters some (or better: all) of the well-respected stations receive worries me. There comes a point when you say: enough is enough. The trouble you take to run the station (and that's much more than only recording a few shows provided you are a serious broadcaster!!) must be compensated with a good response from your listening audience. If that's not the case time after time, the station-op is considering the idea of ceasing trms. No one can't go on getting few letters while on the other hand the work to run the station is enormous. And what worries me most is that the better stations on SW (I leave it up to you which are the better ones) will disappear. For these people offer a lot of spare time to run their station. And they are the ones who DESERVE a good response or should I say NEED a good response?! Mark Stafford of Atlanta Radio made a number of interesting pronouncements with regard to this subject and I won't withhold you his comments. "We got a fairly good response to the broadcast (Atlanta's 10th Birthday Show back in January this year) with 32 letters in all being received. You may be interested in some statistics which show the current state of the UK short wave scene. If you compare our 32 letters

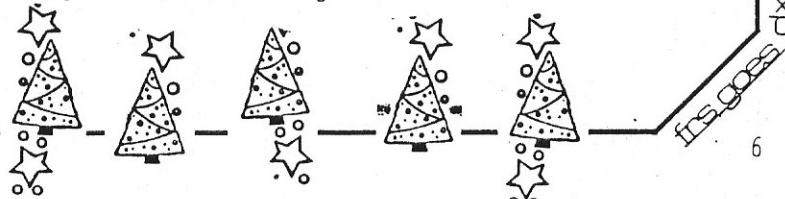
# «FRS GOES DX» THE MAGAZINE FOR FREE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS

*frsgoes dx*

with the response to our 5th birthday broadcast in 1984, you'll see that there has been a dramatic drop in listeners' response. Our 5th Birthday broadcast got us around 90 letters even though we had been on the air only 4 weeks before. If you add to this the fact that in Jan. 1989 we were using 2 transmitters, it's not good news. All in all as an 'oldtimer' on SW I have to say things aren't what they used to be listener-wise. During the early 80's we were running a regular monthly service and we used to say that 30 letters was an average mailbag, 40 to 50 was good and anything less than 20 was a disaster. These days we say that anything more than 20 is excellent! Our average mail is around 20 letters depending on how long it is since the last broadcast. Special occasions like using 2 txs bring in a few more. There are quite a few UK stations who get excited if they get more than 10 letters for a broadcast and very often only get 4 or 5."

Mark Stafford gets to the point. His comments relate to the British DX'er. How is the situation on the continent? Perhaps not as bad as in the UK but you can take it for granted the situation here isn't promising. There's also a clear drop of response. What applies to Atlanta Radio also applies to FRSR. Not so strong perhaps but nevertheless the response is dropping. Especially in West and East-Germany there are many, many DX'er. Are they 'following' the attitude of British fellow DX-ers? I'm not sure. Perhaps this is partly true. I have developed another theory (my 3rd theory) which could play an (important?) role. In the course of the years FRSR has been building up a rather large following. And these listeners are satisfied with our programming. And then there's the danger of satisfaction. I mean: people are too satisfied with our (or other station's) programming and as a result they see no point in writing. They think: next month the station will be again on with the same good programming etc. What they don't realize is that stations are depending on their listeners, not one month but every month. Just like broadcasting month after month, people have to write in a regular way. I'm sure there are simply too few people who take the effort of writing. It's not just the QSL, sticker or info-sheets what must be important for the listener. Tell the station you've really listened. Put down some criticism, your comments. FRSR has a hard core of very regular writers but I'm convinced there are much more listeners. Where are their letters? Their support is just as badly needed than the other ones. Sometimes you discover there are people listening to your pxs (not just sometimes but every month) who have never written in. It's just this what is frustrating. A station needs to know who's listening and which comments he (she) has. So many regular writers have disappeared. What has happened with them? Have they lost interest in DX-ing or are they still one of the listeners but this time the non-writing listeners?

I'm very interested in YOUR COMMENTS regarding this subject. Let me know what you think. It could be a very interesting item to discuss in Opinion 41. I hope I will get lots of reactions, perhaps also from colleague stations reading this.



## SOUNDS FROM OFFSHORE

*frsgoes dx*

This newssection covers the period Nov. 1st - December 15th 1989, the last offshore news for the 1980's as well as for 1989. In general there haven't been any real important developments. The offshore situation isn't particularly promising when looking at the current situation. In last month's 'FRS Goes DX' we were mentioning the fact that religious programming had been recommenced on 558 during evening-time. We must add that reception is really very poor, even in the coastal areas such as Kent, Essex or Zeeland in The Netherlands (pointing at the evening programmes). One of our contributors

lives in Middelburg, only a few miles from the Dutch coast. Even there reception suffers from interference during evening indicating that the actual output power is very low. Also during daytime reception is quite poor and this becomes even more worse because of the time of the year: very short days which are causing poor ground wave propagation of the AM signal. Let's get it straight: the collapse of the giant 300 foot antenna was the last time Caroline put out a reasonable strong signal on 558. Since that accident Caroline has never succeeded in putting out the same signal-strength than before the collapse. It's really ironical and discouraging knowing that there's a tx aboard having a capacity of 50 kW maximum output. Of course we all know this powerful unit was partly dismantled during the raid in August but on the other hand: the SW tx was converted into a MW outlet and the output of the latter is much higher than the current signal leads to believe. Another conclusion must be that the new aerial-system still isn't completed. This could also add greatly to the very low tx output. If we summarize the view of several offshore insiders and contributors, the future of Radio Caroline isn't anything but bright. The organisation on land is a chaos assuming we may talk of an organisation. The financial situation is very bad and has reached an 'all time low'. There are almost no financial sources. There's no 2nd AM station on the Ross R. and there are no SW broadcasters. No organisations leasing airtime means no cash flow. There's only one commercial and it's doubtful whether the station is getting paid for this. The only money is coming from the organisations being part of 'Viewpoint' but one may wonder whether these vicars know what the coverage of the 558 signal is during evening. The money from the religious pxs can't be enough to have a break-even. In other words: there must be serious financial losses. Another thing which is anything but nice is that a new London based station called Spectrum Radio is intending to start trms on 558! Although it will be a low-powered station, there will always be interference in the Greater London area, one of Caroline's main target areas. Let's have a look on the November happenings on the Northsea. Sat Nov. 4th a heavy storm afflicted the northsea and as a result Caroline was broadcasting on even lower power than usual. That same day





frsgoes dx

between 20.00- 20.30 CET the return of 'Northsea Gold' and for the rest of the evening (till 23.00CET) Viewpoint. Nov. 7th the Dutch OCD is interviewing several people, who were involved in the Radio 819 project. The former Radio 819 programme director is told that within a limited period the British DTI will be towing the Ross R. away from its position outside the territorial limit. After his interview, the former 819 PD contacts the Caroline organisation in the UK. Result is PANIC. The Caroline Movement puts the info on the Caroline Info Line and asks listeners to complain

about the proposed DTI action. Thus people are asked to call the DTI as well as any local member of Parliament. Now Radio paid attention to the proposed raid & confiscation of the Ross. One may wonder if the DTI has the COURAGE to undertake such action given they left anything to the OCD in August. The DTI isn't really looking for such publicity. Rumours in England were implicating that Radio Invicta - the local Kent based radiostation - is involved in the plans for the raid because they are willing to silence Caroline being a rival. These rumours must be treated as nonsenses. Johnny Lewis, former Caroline on air personality and nowadays Music Director on Invicta, said that Invicta treats Caroline as a rival in the positive meaning of the word. Nov. 8th the Spectrum Radioorganisation is officially informed by the DTI about the fact 558 is allocated to them. The management isn't happy at all with the allocation of 558. They are not willing to put the slightest obstacle in Caroline's way and are not intending to use 558. In the mean time Peter Chicago managed to get the two original AM tx aboard the Ross in working condition. When combining the 50 kW tx with the 10 kW unit and at the same time using the new aerial masts, a 25 kW signal should be possible. Sounds good but WHEN will it happen??? Monday Nov. 13th the Ross R. was visited by a tender. The mod quality improved and became louder. As of Tuesday Nov. 14th the newservice on 558 is re-activated and pxs commence already at 06.00 CET instead of 08.00 CET. Rather striking is the return of former Caroline PD Steve Conway. He is responsible for the return of a regular news-service on 558. News broadcasts are to be heard at 7, 8, 9 & 10 AM and 13, 14, 18 & 19 PM (=CET). Newsreaders are Steve Conway, Neil Gates and Alex Lee (taking into account they were on duty when the newservice on the aforementioned hours was re-activated). As of Nov. 13th the following deejays are to be heard: Steve Conway, Max Buchanan, Neil Gates, Kevin Ford & Alex Lee. The latter attracts attention because of his fast 'Laser-type' presentation. Sounds good! One new commercial has been introduced: Don Valley convenience food. It sounds similar to the Lotto 6-49 one using the same voice-over.

with love and music \*

## RADIO CAROLINE

Line and asks listeners to complain about the proposed DTI action. Thus people are asked to call the DTI as well as any local member of Parliament. Now Radio paid attention to the proposed raid & confiscation of the Ross. One may wonder if the DTI has the COURAGE to undertake such action given they left anything to the OCD in August. The DTI isn't really looking for such publicity. Rumours in England were implicating that Radio Invicta - the local Kent based radiostation - is involved in the plans for the raid because they are willing to silence Caroline being a rival. These rumours must be treated as nonsenses. Johnny Lewis, former Caroline on air personality and nowadays Music Director on Invicta, said that Invicta treats Caroline as a rival in the positive meaning of the word. Nov. 8th the Spectrum Radioorganisation is officially informed by the DTI about the fact 558 is allocated to them. The management isn't happy at all with the allocation of 558. They are not willing to put the slightest obstacle in Caroline's way and are not intending to use 558. In the mean time Peter Chicago managed to get the two original AM tx aboard the Ross in working condition. When combining the 50 kW tx with the 10 kW unit and at the same time using the new aerial masts, a 25 kW signal should be possible. Sounds good but WHEN will it happen??? Monday Nov. 13th the Ross R. was visited by a tender. The mod quality improved and became louder. As of Tuesday Nov. 14th the newservice on 558 is re-activated and pxs commence already at 06.00 CET instead of 08.00 CET. Rather striking is the return of former Caroline PD Steve Conway. He is responsible for the return of a regular news-service on 558. News broadcasts are to be heard at 7, 8, 9 & 10 AM and 13, 14, 18 & 19 PM (=CET). Newsreaders are Steve Conway, Neil Gates and Alex Lee (taking into account they were on duty when the newservice on the aforementioned hours was re-activated). As of Nov. 13th the following deejays are to be heard: Steve Conway, Max Buchanan, Neil Gates, Kevin Ford & Alex Lee. The latter attracts attention because of his fast 'Laser-type' presentation. Sounds good! One new commercial has been introduced: Don Valley convenience food. It sounds similar to the Lotto 6-49 one using the same voice-over.

**CLUB**

**CAROLINE**

(Don Longhaire-Dobbs)  
WELCOMES U ON BOARD  
AND WISHES ALL ITS MEMBERS A

**Happy Christmas**

CAROLINE FANS — WHY NOT POP OVER TO US FOR  
A WEEKEND — DROP IN ANY TIME

Free Membership to  
Radio Caroline Club  
Members

Applications for Membership  
CLUB CAROLINE  
DUN LOUGHRAE  
TO GAIJIN

offshore news

frsgoes dx

Don Valley convenience food is a Canadian product, so it may have something to do with the Canadian financers of Caroline! One rectification: Last time we mentioned Jerry JONES as being a new Caroline deejay. This must be Jerry JAMES. He used to work on Invicta but became superfluous because of reorganisation. Salient detail: Jerry was one of the 1st people who sailed to the Ross during the raid. His story can be heard in detail on the excellent RBL documentary 'No man will ever forget Sat Aug. 19th'. The story goes that because of the arrival of the boat with Jerry James and other people, worse damage to the Ross was prevented. Jerry is hoping to find a permanent job on land and uses his current job on the Ross to tide over.

Another Caroline deejay, Rob Harisson, left the station and is now doing pxs on Contact 94 on the Channel Islands. Rob is replacing another former Caroline jock: Susan Charles. Persistent rumours remain circulating about a new 20 kW tx for Caroline 558. This tx should be delivered as soon as the registration of the Ross Revenge is 100% o.k. A few bits and pieces with regard to Viewpoint: in compare with August 10 programmes haven't returned. Among them Roy Masters and Johan Maasbach. Against these disappearances, there are a total of 5 new religious pxs on 558.

M.V. NANNELL

Since our last info with regard to the MV Nannell, the situation hasn't become clearer. The ship left her anchorage 30 miles off the Belgian coast and sailed to Cork in Ireland. Then the ship sailed to Wexford, a port in the S-E of the Irish Republic. And the latest reports suggest that the ship is now somewhere in South-England. The journey to Ireland took place early October. When the ship sailed back to England isn't known, most probably early November. A rather strange and unbelievable story is the fact the ship is going to be used as a broadcasting vessel in the Southchinese sea with propaganda transmissions beamed to China to inform the population about what really happened last June. Perhaps this info makes no sense at all - it could be a publicity stunt - but this rumour was not only circulating within offshore circles. We won't hold back the following info: recently the news-service of the Belgian BRT reported that a number of French publishers were willing to put a broadcasting vessel off the coast of China. The name of Steve Masters, former Laser deejay was mentioned in connection with the Nannell. For safety's sake: the latter wasn't part of the BRT news! Finally we mention the fact that Radio 48 reported in its 'World of Radio' that the Nannell isn't a broadcasting vessel anymore. The ship would have been sold as a coaster. Radio 48 confirmed the fact that the Nannell had really been anchored off the Belgian coast for a few months. According to Radio 48, the Nannell is currently in an English port.

frsgoes dx

## M.V. COMMUNICATOR

It's getting more and more difficult to supply you with RELIABLE info with regard to the MV Communicator. One important reason is ofcourse the fact the ship is not in W-Europe. Since the past summer, it is in Portugal and that doesn't make things easier. It was reported that the ship would have been raided by Portuguese authorities in October. Neither the British DTI, nor the Dutch OCD claim they knew anything from araid and this makes the whole case, to say the least, unreliable. Isn't it easy to spread all kinds of rumours knowing that these rumours can't be controlled because the ship is invisible because it is lying in the very southern part of Europe?! What would be the inte-rest of Portuguese authorities in the Communicator? Only when they were looking after Dutch or British interests, it would be understandable. The truth could be lying in between, as it could be true that police has only had a look on the ship without confiscating equipment. Latest reports suggest the ship has left Portugal heading for Morocco. This can only be taken serious when there really were problems in Portugal with authorities.



X P

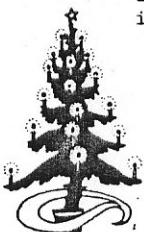
## OFFSHORE VARIA

In this column not only offshore items (as the title suggests) but also news about former offshore deejays. So in one or another way it has something to do with offshore anyhow.....

- \* Robin Ross is no more Head of Music on Radio Radio. The British satellite radio-station still is unsuccessful and one wonders how long the station will continue its activities. Robin was one of the deejays on Caroline when the station returned in August of 1983. He was offered another less 'interesting' job on Radio Radio.
- \* The name of Radio Paradise will be used for a new Belgian radio-station (on a legal basis). A.J. Beirens, former 'RNI Goes DX' presenter, also known for his shows on the legendary European Music Radio, the ststaion of former FRSR deejay Barry Stephens, is currently involved in this project.
- \* Steve Merike, ex-RNI & Caroline jock, moved to Australia where he has found a new job in the radio-industry. Another former Caroline deejay is Richard Jackson and he is still working on the other side of the world in Thailand having its own radiostation in Bangkok.

\* Tony Blackburn is 'flying high'. The management of Capital Radio claims there are a million listeners hearing his job every day. Not bad Tony....

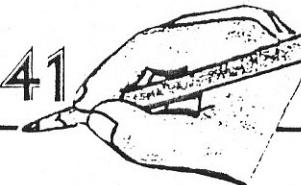
\* Who remembers Oliver Smedley? He died aged 76. He was one of the founders of Radio Atlanta, the station which merged with Radio caroline in 1964. In 1966 Smedley shot Reginald Calvert, the owner of Radio City at that time. They had an argument about a transmitter which belonged to Smedley who lent it to Mr. Calvert. Smedley was acquitted because for self-defence reasons. Radio City continued broadcasting after the accident under the leadership of Mrs. calvert. Those were the days.....



offshore news

10

MAILBOX 41



frsgoes dx

We're back on the air and our new address is getting filled with letters and cassettes for our X-Mas programme. Peter has even had to hire a special van to get all the mail back to his place. A lot of letters coming form the GDR where the political situation has changed dramatically over the past month. We all wish all our friends in the GDR the best and hope that the new situation makes it easier for them to listen and write to us!

'Dear friends', writes Michael Andersson of Malmö in Sweden, 'thank you very much for a very good magazine. I am enjoying it very much. There is only one thing I would like (...). Me and some friends listen to MW during the weekends and pick up a lot of stations from the Netherlands. It is not very easy (...) to hear the ID's (...) Perhaps you could fill the gap a bit, and publish the stations heard lately with addresses.' We are very sorry Michael, but we're only devoted to SW and offshore radio. So we don't intend to publish information about MW-stations, moreover since we don't have the necessary info ourselves. But maybe one of our listeners/readers know where to obtain this information. If so, please write to us and we will pass it on to Michael.

Long standing member Christian Bergmann form Elstertrebnitz GDR wrote a whooping total of 3 letters within one month. One of them read: 'It was nice to hear FRSR back on short wave. The signal was not bad. We have now reached a new stage in the history of our country. Now everyone is allowed to visit also western countries. It means for me: it will be more easier to pay my subscription for the membership in your club.' In another one he writes: 'It was a pleasure to hear your four hour broadcast today. I tried already last Sunday to pick up FRSR, but the most important thing is that FRSR is now back on shortwave. I'm very curious on your new schedule and your new jingle package. I wish to thank Joop ter Zee for presenting "Sounds alternative" over the past years. I enjoyed always his shows and it's a pity that there are no longer "Sounds alternative". But I'm sure FRSR will present an alternative show in January 1990! Unfortunately I missed your "International Listeners Letter Show" today. I guess a lack of time must have been the reason.'

'After a long time, I think more than a year, I send you this reception report concerning yesterday's transmission on 7310 kHz. Incidentally I tuned up and down the SW bands and so I found FRSR. The programme quality was, as in the last 9 1/2 years, of a very high standard, it is good to have stations like FRS Holland, beacuse what I received over the last year concerning SW pirates was mostly very poor. In fact I noticed there are not many stations active regularly on the bands these days that can be received in good quality', writes Stefan Croonen form Vögelsen, BRD.

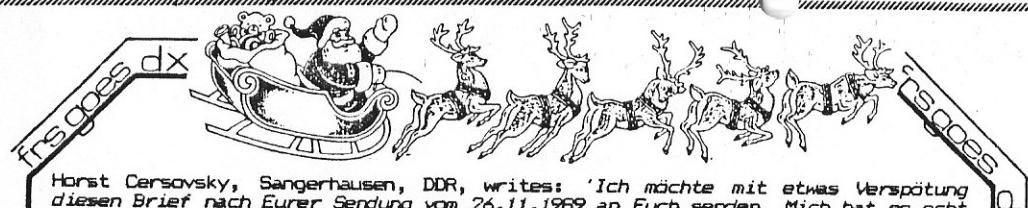
Stefan Printz from Rydaholm in Sweden gave us a bit of a worry: 'Many thanks for your last issue of FRSGDX (nr. without digits, have you lost in count...?)?'. We've been looking all over the place, but we couldn't find them either, so we informed the police who have now a former FRSR administrator in custody, helping them with their enquiries.

'Hello friends, another year is coming to an end and I just want to say thanks!' writes Uwe Kellermann from Groß-Gerau in the BRD. 'The Free Radio Service Holland provided us listeners, with yet another year of excellent programs and FRS magazines. Keep on going!'

'I received both the FRSR test transmissions as well as the regular broadcast on 7310 kHz in November. Reception was excellent on both occasions, as far as the signal and the modulation was concerned. It seems as if you've found a reliable transmitting facility for your station, congratulations!', says Björn Quäck, Duisburg, BRD.

f.r.s. letters

11



Horst Cersovsky, Sangerhausen, DDR, writes: 'Ich möchte mit etwas Verspätung diesen Brief nach Eurer Sendung vom 26.11.1989 an Euch senden. Mich hat es echt gefreut, mal wieder ein deutsches Programm von FRS Holland zu hören. Ich bin ja ein langjähriger Hörer, der FRSH von Anbeginn an kennt aber leider oft keine Zeit fand, auch zu schreiben. Bei solch einem herrlich klarem Empfang möchte ich mir zum Wochenede die Zeit dafür unbedingt nehmen. Die Musik kam bei mir sehr gut an (...) "FRS goes dx" im Anschluß gehört zu meinen Stammsendungen. Auf Jaap ter Zee's neues Programm bin ich gespannt.'

Rest me only to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Gerd

### MORE OFFSHORE VARIA (cont. of page )

- \* The final (?) court-case with regard to a claim from a Panamanian company called Panlieve SA will be held in Amsterdam Friday December 29th. Panlieve SA was the company owning the Radio Paradise ship Magda Maria. The company lodged a claim of several millions against the Kingdom of The Netherlands. The Dutch authorities have tried to make an arrangement -but Panlieve SA didn't agree. The Dutch authorities only offered a relatively small amount of money.
- \* Frits Mulder alias Frits Koning - under the latter name he worked on Radio Monique in its heydays- had to leave Cable One because the station wasn't allowed on Dutch cablenetworks anymore. Now he's working on freelance basis on a regional Utrecht station.
- \* Who remembers Tom Collins? One of the well-known Veronica jocks in its offshore period. He is now doing voice-over work for Veronica TV. A good voice-over is invaluable !! We at FRS-Holland know a thing or two about that....
- \* Aruts Sheva, the second broadcasting station in the Mediterranean and 'neighbour' of the Voice of Peace, has extended programming with a further two hours. The station is now on air between 07.00-24.00 hours. Recently the ship went to a port for essential maintenance.
- \* Tim Allen, one of the many former Caroline jocks, was heard on the 'Shopradiostation' of HMV, one of London's giant CD/Album shops.
- \* Chrispian St. John, who worked on several offshore stations and who did his last offshore stint on Caroline (in the period the station was on 576 & 963) as a deejay and head of the newsservice (under the name Jay Jackson) has started his own radiostation. The station is called KNBC and it concerns a low-powered operation and as it is rumoured Howard Rose- that's his real name- will be joined by Paul Graham (ex-Caroline) and Alan West.
- \* Laywers, being representatives for the organisation behind Radio New York Int., will start up legal proceedings against the FCC who made an end on the trms of RNI from the ship the MV Sarah.
- \* The Dutch OCD 'invited' a number of persons for interviews concerning Radio 819 and Radio Monique. It appears that a number of persons is not willing to co-operate. They kept their mouth shut. As a result some of them had to stay in jail for a short while. A judgement concerning the Ross raid will follow in 1990.

### DIGITAL RADIO



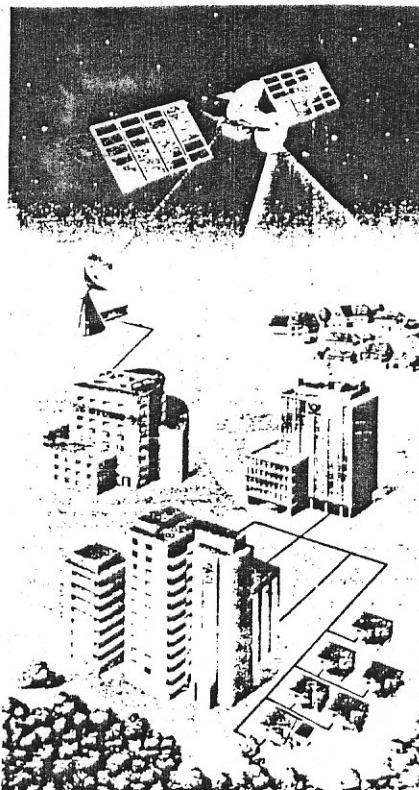
Digital radio, a logical pursuit to digital records, the compact discs. In Germany they developed the idea to spread this kind of radio via satellite. In September of this year Digital Satellite Radio (DSR) became a fact. Available to listeners with their own satellite receiver, but also in future to subscribers to cable-networks.

Six years ago DSR was demonstrated for the first time to the visitors of the "Funkausstellung" in Berlin. At that time the experimental satellite OTS-2 was used.

During this year's Funkausstellung DSR was started officially. Everybody can receive sixteen different stereo-signals at home via the German Kopernikus satellite.

For individual reception a dish is needed of course, but also a special digital tuner to make digital signals audible. Various European manufacturers, a.o. Grundig, Telefunken and Philips, offer such an apparatus, to be placed between your satellite dish and your hi-fi stereo-equipment. These tuners aren't cheap yet: between D.M. 1.500 and 4.000. It will last quite a time before cable networks will be distributing these signals.

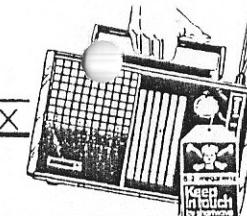
DSR was invented and developed in Germany. At the end of the 70's plans were developed to launch public broadcasting satellites to distribute television. Soon it was suggested to broadcast radio-signals at the same time. At that time the change-over from AM to FM was a giant improvement in audio-quality, but real CD-quality wasn't reached yet. Satellite-broadcasting would offer such a chance. That was the birth of DSR. German industry and official institutions like the Bundespost were involved in it.



Digital technique offers the possibility to broadcast sixteen (!) radiosignals in stereo (or 32 mono-signals) via one t.v.-channel. Quality is very superiour to FM.

At this year's Funkausstellung the German Minister of Post and Telecommunication officially launched DSR. At this occasion he said that a new era in the history of radio had begun.

The great advantage of DSR is that there is no loss of audio-quality regarding the transfer of the signal. The signal



In this last short wave report of 1989, the month of November is covered as well as the first two weeks of December. Conditions haven't been brilliant but on the other hand not too bad. However: the splendid conditions of 1980/1981 is something we are still waiting for. In this Dec. report we'll specially refer to those stations putting special X-Mas broadcasts on air Dec. 25th & 26th.

\* Who remembers last year's broadcasts of X-MAS RADIO? This Dutch station only broadcasts one time a year under this name. Last year X-Mas Radio was on air on X-Mas and Boxing Day on 7315 kHz with one of the best signals in the band. For this year 12 hours of broadcasts are being planned. Mon Dec. 25th trms will be commenced at 09.00 CET and shows will last till 15.00 CET. Frequencies will be 7310 kHz plus a frequency within the 48 mb (unknown at the moment but most probably between 6200- 6240 kHz). The same schedule will be repeated on Boxing Day but the programming will be different. As an extra the daytime programmes of Dec. 25th will be repeated in the night of Monday to Tuesday (probably between 21.00- 03.00 CET) and the Boxing Day programming will be repeated in the night of Tuesday to Wednesday (same time as Mon to Tues). X-Mas is not just an ordinary SW station. The music will be experimental/alternative. Moreover the deejays are not just anybody: most of them are active in the professional world of radio in The Netherlands but also outside The Netherlands. So programme-wise it should be very professional pxs which will be aired. Last year there were rather serious when just one day before the actual programming, a new transmitting location had to be found because a farmer didn't keep his promises.... With the help of a few persons X-Mas Radio succeeded in finding a suitable and reliable location from which the pxs were broadcasted. Looking back to the less nice experiences last year, the station didn't take any risks and by now a 100% reliable location has been found. So nothing will prevent the station from broadcasting over the X-Mas period. Address: P.O.box 7315, Amsterdam.

\* SUD-WEST RADIO from W-Germany made an unexpected return on SW Sun Dec. 10th. The station was not operating on its former fixed frequency of 6235 but on 6225 kHz. As always a very strong signal was received on the continent. SWR was and is one of the most popular SW stations among W-German free radio DX-ers. Future plans are unknown but it may be expected the station will continue. During 1989 almost no trms were broadcasted by SWR. Perhaps a special X-Mas Show will be aired? (if it was mentioned in their Dec. 10th pxs, we missed it!).

\* EAST COAST COMMERCIAL sent us a press-release, making mention of its special annual X-Mas broadcast. The show will be aired Mon Dec. 25th and frequencies must be known by most DX-ers: 6815 & 11.512 kHz. The latter could vary a kHz or so. During this live trm ECC will have an on-air telephone line available for its listeners. Dial 04853- 2742 if you live in the ZK. Continental listeners should dial the Int. access code followed by the UK country-code and then 4853- 2742.

from the studio to the transmitter and from there to the satellite. From the satellite it goes back to the earth again. Individual dish-owners and cable networks receive this digital signal. The signal is transferred to the cable-subscribers in the same digital way. So, even when you are connected to a cable-network you'll have to buy the special tuner we already mentioned. Apart from the splendid audio-quality DSR offers you unequalled operation comfort. Every signal will be accompanied by a special code which enables the receiver to make a choice out of the sixteen programmes. When somebody presses the button "classic" his receiver will automatically search such a programme. The system consists of categories like news, sports, education, science, pop, rock and politics. Furthermore DSR enables to vary the volume of speech and music separately.

In the middle of next year the ultimate division of the 16 channels will be made. Every single federal state of Germany will be offered at least one channel. Also the national Deutscher Landfunk and RIAS from Berlin will get an own channel. Apart from public broadcasters some private societies will get a place. As an example Star-Sat Radio has taken one of the channels on the satellite as first commercial broadcaster.

The Kopernikus satellite will cover the whole of Germany, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Austria and Denmark. So, digital radio will come the reach of a lot of Europeans.

## ATLANTIC 252

In a recently published press-bulletin, the management of Atlantic 252 makes mention of the fact the station has a weekly reach of one million listeners. In last month's edition of 'FRS Goes DX' we mentioned a reach of 1.5 million. 40% of this group belongs to the target group being people aged between 16 and 24.

One of the strange things is that reception quality varies a lot. Perhaps not in the UK and Ireland which is relatively close to the tx location. But for continental listeners the level of the signal-strength differs quite often and that clearly leaves its mark on the overall reception quality. Reception can be very loud and clear while other times the station is much weaker. In cases such as the latter the station is hardly to separate from the French speaking co-user of 254 kHz.

Positive is the overall sound of the station. Lots of new and professional voice-overs are being used. Also the presentation team is doing a very good job. The presenters are all presenting on high standard making listening rather enjoyable. Atlantic 254 can be reached via Box 252, London W1E 2RA in the UK.



\* The ITALIAN RADIO RELAY SERVICE is airing a monthly DX-Show which is presented by Dario Monferini. The latter is quite known in the world of DX and publishes a weekly newsheet called 'Play DX'. The DX-px on the IRRS is presented in Italian and partly in English. The station uses 9860 but is testing on 13790 kHz.

*frs goes dx*

The telephone number will only be available to ECC for Mon Dec. 25th and not for other occasions! Currently the station is running a weekly 11.00- 14.00 CET schedule although the station was missing Sun Dec. 10th. Power on 6815 is 20W and on 11.512 12W. For these 12W results are really very good! Address: (3).

\* According to Neal West, DX-editor of Radio ECC, **RADIO APOLLO** may resume broadcasting again during Spring 1990. Apollo address is (3).

\* **RADIO 48**, one of Britain's better SW stations, was heard Sun Nov. 19th with good signal-strength in the UK and on the continent. The future of the station looks a bit more promising since a fair amount of letters was received for the October broadcast. Radio 48 has plans for 41 mb trms during nighttime but at present this idea is on hold. We've been informed the station now uses the Hunstanton address.

\* Following the celebration of its 17th birthday on October 29th, **RADIO GEMINI** was again active a week later. It was a repeat of the special Birthday Show of Oct. 29th and the signal-strength on 6220 kHz was fair/good on the continent. Address: 32 Puller Rd, Boxmore, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 1QN in the UK.

\* **BRITAIN RADIO INT.** has been doing no SW broadcasts because of certain problems we won't mention. It can be expected that BRI will be on air on Boxing Day, Dec. 26th, with its traditional X-Mas broadcast. This will be most probably on 6230. Address: 32 Victoria Rd, Salisbury, Wiltshire in the UK.

\* Activity Magazine reports that London based veteran FM rockers **RFM** continue to broadcast on 6316 with particularly in the UK good signals. The 6316 signal is a relay of their FM service in London. The station is planning to move to a new channel. On the continent RFM is to be received with a poor/fair signal.

\* **RADIO RAINBOW GERMANY** was noticed during several occasions in Nov. The final (?) trm was aired Sun Nov. 26th. A nice and clear signal was picked up on 6240 kHz. It seems that RRG has had arguments with fellow German Free Radio people and this is one of the reasons for ceasing trms. The FR newsheet 'Free Radio Disaster', regularly published by the station, won't be printed anymore. It is likely the RRG crew is going to concentrate on FM. Not too long ago German authorities closed down RRG's address in Stolberg but luckily they have a 2nd address which is P.O.Box 65027, 3002 DA in Rotterdam. Sun Nov. 26th RRG was not only heard on 6240 but also on 7430. This signal was running simultaneously with 6240 and was rather poor.

\* **RADIO LUCE**, the French station, has apparently left 7375 (at last!!) and is now on a much better frequency being 6520 kHz. 7375 has always been a problem since there are (were) almost every Sun so-called Spy Number stations on this frequency making reception of Radio Luce impossible. 6520 is occupied on a weekly basis.. Address: BP 130, 92504 Rueil Cedex in France.

*s.w. news*



*frs goes dx*

\* One of the odd loggings in November was **RADIO WMR** from The Netherlands. The station was using 6404, a rather unusual frequency. A nijmegen address was mentioned and the station was noted on 14.30 UTC. Who has the exact address ??

\* **RADIO SCORPIO** returned after a long absence in SW land Sun Nov. 5th. In the past Scorpio used to be relayed by the SFRN but due to the new law in Ireland, making illegal broadcasting quite difficult, the relays had to be cancelled. Although the SFRN returned from a new transmitting site in Scotland, Scorpio didn't return via them. Currently Scorpio is relayed via the French station Radio Luce on 6520 kHz. The Nov. 5th trm was heard in good quality and it can be expected Scorpio will continue on 6520 provided the signal remains satisfactory. Address: (4).

\* **RADIO UNIVERSUM** has become one of the 'permanent' users of the 7420- 7500 kHz frequency range. Nov. 12th the station was on 7430 but had to change because of utility. 7480 was then used and later on that same morning another change was made to 7425 kHz. Fair/good reception was noted. Address: (2).

\* One of the most active British stations around X-Mas is **WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO** from Scotland. Last year several broadcasts were carried out with especially on 15043 kHz excellent reception on the continent. The live phone-ins were very enjoyable and although we have no specific info for this year's schedule, we assume WMR will be on air in the 48 & 19 mb. Keep an eye on the following frequencies: 15045(3), 15065, 15640, 15680, 13630, 21810 & 21846 kHz. If there are special X-Mas broadcasts, they will be carried out during daytime but also during nighttime. Daytime programming could be live with a telephone line open for interested listeners. The address: 42 Arran Close, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 4JH in GB.

→ Keeping the Fight for Free Radio alive and kicking!

# PFBS RADIO

→ SUNDAYS ON 60, 48 AND 41 METRES SHORTWAVE!

\* **PIRATE FREAKS BROADCAST SERVICE** has been rather active during the past few weeks. Sun Nov. 5th the station was noted with good reception on 6292 as early as 03.00 CET ! Sun Nov. 19th PFBS was logged on 6240 with good reception on the continent and poor reception in the UK. During this broadcast it was announced by station OP Pirate Andy that the future of PFBS depends on the listener's response. Sun Nov. 19th the station was also heard on 7490 Sat Nov. 25th PFBS was again heard on 6240. Sun Nov. 26th a good signal was heard on 6235 kHz. The station uses a 30W transmitter and can be contacted via (4).

\* **RADIO ACTION** from Holland can be heard every two to three months, most of the time on Sat. The station always uses 6207 kHz. Sat Nov. 18th Action made one of its rare appearances with music shows only a no further 'specific' SW pxs (letter or DX-Show). Address: P.O.Box 26, 7030 AA Wehl in The Netherlands.

*s.w. news*

\* Now some news from WONDERFUL FREE RADIO LONDON. The station missed its 1st Sun broadcast in Nov. due to site problems. A week later the station was on air on 6275, unfortunately 'Tender Trip', the popular offshore newsprogramme was missing. Sat Nov. 11th station had a kind of extra trm on 6275. A new deejay named Terry Philips made this occasion. Andy Walker informs us testing on higher frequencies. Dec. 3rd the kHz between 00.30- 07.30 UTC, that's without have been or will be carried out on 15166 rather sad to know that WFRL will close and Sun schedule as from Febr. 1990 onwards. station will be on every 5th Sun. The 1st take place Sun April 29th when the station SW broadcasts. In addition to the already also keep an eye on 9970, 11170 & 11153. very early on Sun mornings. It's more than heard with special X-Mas pxs on either 's a chance also one of the earlier men- s will be used, perhaps in parallel with ss: (3).

\* RADIO REBEL is a new W-German station and is planning relays via the facilities of Radio waves Int. The RWI address will be used for the time being (see Radio Luce!).

\* **RADIO ORION** continues with weekly 11.00- 15.00 CET trms on 6299. Orion pxs feature a lot of 1970's stuff and so now and then people can phone the station during a trm. The big 'O' as the station calls itself is still one of Britain's most regular SW broadcasters. Address: Box 1280, Rednall, Birmingham B45 8SG in the UK.

\* FALCON RADIO from the UK continues with its early morning Sunday trms on 6870 kHz. Trms tend to cease a bit later than 'usual' as the station was heard a few times after 10.00 CET. Signal quality varies from poor to good on the continent. Most of the time closer to poor than to good. The station plays A selection of quality rock music. Address: MAC, Box 109, Northampton in the Uk.

\* DELTA RADIO from the UK tested Sat Nov. 11th on 6232 after a break of a few months. This test was carried out in preparation for regular broadcasts. Strong reception was noted in the UK. Address (3)

\* As mentioned in November, RADIO PAMELA returned on SW. This happened on 7440 kHz on Sun Nov. 19th via the facilities of RWI in France. Richard Grahamme is the responsible person and not Steve Most who run the staion before it was raided some time ago. UK address: 10 Bromyard Crescent, Paulsgrove, Portsmouth PO6 3JP in the UK.

\* TOTAL CONTROL RADIO returned on SW Sat Nov. 4th with a nighttime trm on 6275. Both in the UK and on the continent a good signal was noted. Address: see Luce!!!



-5781 ne701

#### **NEWS FROM AROUND THE**

\* The court-case between the organisation behind the MV Sarah (Radio New York Int'l) and the FCC has been won by the latter. The Court of Justice decided that the intervention by the FCC was fully legal. According to the Court of Justice the FCC is not only responsible for all radio & television broadcasts in the U.S., but also for transmissions beamed at the S. ! Perhaps the responsible persons are now 100% convinced that the offshore project off the U.S. coast is doomed to failure. And at least there's at least some chance the Sarah will 'visit' the European waters...

\* A radio-station in a tv-commercial. No gossip. Till November 10th BBC television played a commercial (or better: promo-spot) of GLR which stands for Greater London Radio. The promo included shots of former offshore personalities like Tommy Vance and Johnny Walker.

\* Perkaps less famous or popular but nevertheless also former offshore jocks are Jerry Hoogland (Mi Amigo 272) and Ferry Eden (Mi Amigo 272, Mi Amigo, Caroline and Monique). They present radio-shows on Domstad Radio in Utrecht, a legal and local radiostation transmitting via cable and transmitter.

\* Now available a Voice of Peace video called 'The Video, The VoP'. It's a 54 min. video, recorded in 1988 by Coconut (yes, the Caroleene deejay). On this fairly interesting video a lot of action on the ship itself (studios, maintenance etc.) but also an impression of a supply in the port of Ashdod. A VoP album can be expected in future, produced by Dave Asher. The video can be obtained via Offshore Echos via their new address: Box 1514, London W7 2LL in the UK. It is delivered on VHS and costs £ 18.00 .

\* For real offshore lovers there's an unique cassette available of Atlanta Radio, the former offshore station which joined forces with Caroline already after a short broadcasting time. A 90 min. copy on good quality for f 10,-/DM 10/f 3.00 via P.O.Box 102, 9700 AC Groningen in The Netherlands. And don't forget to add you read it in this very magazine...

\* RTL-V, the latest new Dutch satellite tv-station, has plans to start a number of radiostations. Veronique (don't confuse it with the Dutch broadcasting society Veronica!) will soon introduce the first of a series of satellite radiostations. The first station will be called Veronique Light and its format will be similar to Cable One. The latter was brainchild of former Veronica, Northsea and Monique deejay Joost de Draaier but was forced to close a couple of weeks ago because it was, according to Dutch law, a Dutch station. And that's forbidden. Veronique is a Luxembourg station with programmes beamed at the Dutch audience (because the majority of shows are in Dutch). Anyway, Veronique Light will be playing Middle of the Road with lots of oldies. No heavy tracks! Rumours are circulating that Veronique Light will join forces with Cable One. The latter is no more on Dutch cable networks. All employees were fired but may return on the radio via Veronique Light.

\* Veronica wants to become the first Dutch broadcasting society going commercially. Veronica claims to have a complete plan to start as soon as possible. That would mean Veronica will disappear as a public broadcasting society. On the other hand: instead of only two, the station could be 7 days a week on television. What the consequence is for radio isn't known.

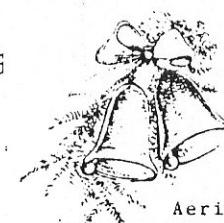
frsgoes dx

frsgoes dx

- \* The annual presentation of the Billboard Awards took place in New York recently. For the second time in succession WHTZ was voted as the best Top 40 station. WHTZ, better known as Z100, also received an award in the category Music Director of the Year. The MD of Z100 received this award for the 2nd time in a row. In the category Adult Station of the Year the LA based station KOST FM 103 got the award. The best Black Station was WVAZ of Chicago (better known as V103 FM). Rock Station of the Year became LIVE 105, officially called KITS. This station comes from San Francisco. In the category Network and Syndicated Music Programmes Casey's Top 40 got an award in the sub category Top 40, Dick Bartley's Rock 'n' Roll Oldies Show in the category Adult, Walt Love's Countdown in the category Black, Bob Kingsley's American Country Countdown in the category Country and finally a programme called Rockline in the Rock category. The first three of these 5 awards went to the well-known Syndicator Westwood One Productions.
- \* ITN is currently investigating the possibilities of acquiring one of the new national licences for starting a national commercial radio station in Great Britain. There will be three national commercial broadcasting stations in Great Britain. A special committee is set up to look at the possibilities of running a national 24 hour newsstation. If ITN decides to submit an application, it will be for one of the two AM frequencies. The application of LBC will be then cancelled since the latter is largely owned by ITN.
- \* 208 on satellite. The English AM Service of Luxembourg 208/1440 KHz is now also to be heard on satellite as extra audio channel belonging to RTL-Veronique on the Astra satellite. A few weeks ago the 208 sound was, as a kind of experiment, radiated by satellite. After a few days the experiment was dropped. As a result the London office of Luxy 208 was 'swamped' with telephone calls from people asking whether it was possible to bring the pxs on a permanent basis on the Astra satellite. So at present time the whole of Europe is able to receive Radio Luxembourg in Hi-Fi Stereo. A well-known former Luxembourg deejay, Rob Jones, is back on 208 with a sponsored show. This is done via a specially for that purpose established firm. Also on Luxy 208 is former Caroline deejay Ian Mack plus Tony Murrell, who's coming from the Irish free radio. Nick Martin left the station. Luxembourg also started a satellite FM Service with special pxs for Scandinavia. The English Service is passed on for re-broadcast via cable networks in the UK. The signal is, as already mentioned, in stereo and Astra passes the signal on via the RTL-Veronique subcarrier.
- \* DX-Tips. WRNO's DX-Show, called the World of Radio, can be heard every Friday between 00.00- 00.30 hours. Mr. SW himself, Glenn Hauser, is presenting this interesting show. Frequency

Then two mentions of European stations: Radio Austria Int. broadcasts a media-programme on Saturdays on 6155 kHz. The px is broadcasted at 06.05, 09.05, 12.05 and 15.05 hours. On 5945 kHz at 18.05 and 21.05 hours. New items in the show are Amateur DX and Computer Special. Swiss SW Merry Go Round is broadcasted on Sundays by Swiss Radio Int. at 09.30, 15 and 20 hours on 3985, 6165 and 9535 kHz.

# Annual Report 1989



## JANUARY

- Aerial riggers start to work on a new antenna system aboard the Caroline ship Ross Revenge. The completion should enable both Caroline 558 & Radio 819 to up power giving much better coverage in W-Europe.
- \* Fire in the machine-room of the Ross Revenge. No one is injured but there's quite some damage.
- \* As from Jan. 24th Caroline introduces a new & alternative Rockservice on 819 following each evening's close-down of Viewpoint pxs. The name of the service is Caroline 819- The Overnight Alternative
- \* The new Irish Broadcasting & Wireless Telegraphy Act 1988 comes into effect as from Jan. 1st 1989 onwards. The end of several professional AM & FM broadcasters but also the end of a number of well-known SW operations from Irish ground. Most known ones are Radio Fax, Westside Radio, the Scottish Free Radio Network and not to forget Radio Rainbow Int.
- \* David Lee Stone, former Laser deejay, returns on Radio Luxembourg 208 with taped programmes.
- \* Britain Radio Int. is carrying out test broadcasts in order to look for a new and better channel. 6305 won't be used anymore due to bad results.
- \* The West-German station Radio Batida is raided by the German post Jan. 22nd. The first raid in W-Germany in more than 4 years. Batida used to carry out rather lengthy broadcasts.
- \* FRS-Holland starts the year with a regular 3rd Sun broadcast on Sun Jan. 15th on 6240. The 3 hour broadcast suffers from the poor band condition. Reasonable reception on the continent but poor results in the UK. In one way strange since reasonable reception is reported in areas further away from the FRS transmitting location than various British areas where reception is much worse. Is there anyone on the Northsea doing strange things with our signal???

## FEBRUARY

- \* For the second time this year fire on the Ross, this time in the galley. No persons injured and trms continue during the fire. Aerial work continues but heavily depends on the Northsea weather which is very unfavourable in this time of the year.
- \* Febr. 12th Europe's newest commercial short wave service officially commences trms from Italy. Name of the service: the Italian Radio Relay Service. Frequency is 9860 kHz in the 31mb with 10 kW of power. The service only transmits on Sundays.
- \* Radio Dublin, one of the very few Irish stations ignoring the new law, is raided Tuesday Febr. 7th at 06.10. Trms are resumed that same day on FM. Five days later, Febr. 12th, Dublin is raided for the second time. A few hours later that same day 'Captain' Eamon Cooke's station once again returns on FM!!
- \* Atlanta Radio, one of Europe's legendary SW free radio operators, celebrates 10 years of SW broadcasts with a magnificent Birthday Show with a lengthy broadcast on 6242 & 6274 kHz.
- \* Radio 819 deejays on strike (till March 4th) because there are not enough people on the Ross to do all the work being part of the 819 operation.

\* FRS-Holland takes steps to have longer trms, a better signal and a fixed frequency. FRSH's broadcasting policy is aimed at 4 to 5 hour monthly trms with a solid signal on a

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fixed channel. Due to reasons beyond our control the Febr. 3rd Sun broadcast is cancelled. However: the 4th Sun FRS is on with an excellent signal on the new 'old' 7315 kHz in the 41 mb. The only thing which could be improved is avoiding interference from the high-powered BBC tx on 7325 kHz.

### M A R C H

- \* Radio Caroline celebrates 25 years of broadcasting from the high seas. Over the Easter weekend an All Time Top 1001 is aired and on 819 a top 200 of Album Tracks. A lot of attention is paid on Caroline's Birthday by the British media. A BBC film crew is aboard the Ross. Disappointing is the fact no voices of the past are being heard during Caroline's on air celebration.
- \* Radio Galaxy from W-Germany hits the airwaves with a 7 hour trm using no less than 1000 watts of power. The station will receive a lot of letters for the trm. Pxs are of high standard.
- \* East Coast Commercial starts testing on 11515 kHz in the 25 mb.
- \* The FRS March trm is, as a kind of result of the late Febr. one, again on a 4th Sun. Nice coincident: the trm takes place on Easter Sun. As the results of the Febr. broadcast are promising, it is decided that pxs continue to be aired on 7315 kHz. Besides: a good and definitive opinion can only be made after a few broadcasts. The Easter Sun broadcast was a long one: 5 hours. Signal-quality is more than satisfactory during that day. In the mean time negotiations continue with regard to the use of a new transmitting location, together with a new station called Radio 7315.

### A P R I L

- \* Communicator leaves its moorings and sails to Harwich (April 8th). One day later the ship is towed seaward by a tug! The start of a new broadcasting episode??
- \* Work on the new masts on board the Ross continues very slowly.
- \* Britain Radio Int. concludes a series of test April 9th and starts official programming on the brandnew 6230 kHz frequency April 23rd. New 2nd & 4th Sun schedules are being introduced.
- \* Radio Stella/ the Scottish Free Radio Network return on SW in the 41 mb on....7315!
- \* Radio 101 returns after a 6 months' break on a brandnew frequency in the 19 mb: 15015 kHz. After all the frequency seems not to provide the reception one is hoping for.
- \* A new UK-based SW station is commencing broadcasts on 48 metres: Laser Radio. The name is NOT original but pxs seem to attract quite some listeners, especially in the UK.
- \* The former Radio Paradise ship Magda Maria is towed the the Belgian port of Zeebrugge. The ship will be scrapped!
- \* The 4th 1989 FRS-Holland trm in a row is being made Sun April 16th with a rather low-powered tx: 20W. But it becomes clear that such low-powered units provide excellent reception with an efficient aerial system. The broadcast is planned on 7315 but a heavy jammer being operational on 7316 makes this plans impossible. It is decided to use 6240 in the 48 mb, a reliable frequency!



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### M A Y

- \* Deejays aboard the Ross strike because the 819 organisation on land doesn't keep their promises. This is the 2nd strike within 2 months!
- \* It is revealed that hard work is carried out on the radiovessel MV Nannell, still lying in Santander/ Spain.
- \* Antenna system on Ross Revenge still not completed.
- \* Listening figures that Radio 819 has only between 15,000 and 25,000 listeners. A disaster for the station!
- \* Rumours circulate that Fred Bolland is involved in a new Dutch station commencing broadcasts on board the Communicator. Bolland travels to the UK to purchase a 30 kW FM unit (owned by Chris Carey). The Communicator is anchored off the French coast (dunkirk).
- \* May 30th Radio Dublin returns on SW on the old (but poor) 6910 kHz frequency. The stations now broadcasts on AM, FM & SW.
- \* The Magda Maria is being broken up in the harbour of Zeebrugge.
- \* Work is progressing to bring a brandnew commercial LONG WAVE station on the air: Atlantic 252 (formerly Radio Tara). Trms will be carried out from Irish ground and two organisations are setting up this project: Radio Luxembourg and RTE.
- \* The regular FRSH trm is 'back' on the 3rd Sun: May 21st a powerful signal was to be heard between 10.00 and 14.45 CET. An old-fashioned long FRS trm. We have the possibility to make use of a frequency being a few kHz below 7315 kHz. And so a crystal clear signal is to be heard on 7310 kHz without the slightest BBC interference. Reception reports were showing that 7310 was the ideal choice. Nice piece of information: the 7310 X-tal arrives just in time on the FRSH 'headquarters'. It is unpacked and put into the envelope with the px cassettes and so the package arrives just in time on the tx location... SW is sometimes a thrilling business!!

### J U N E

- \* A rather sensational news-item reaches our news-desk: the MV Nannell leaves the port of Santander on the 10th of June, a Saturday, heading for W-European waters. On the ship a giant 80m vertical antenna tower!
- \* Work is progressing to bring the brandnew Atlantic 252 on the air. The 800 ft. tower is completed. A very impressive giant for the 'anoraks' but NOT for the people living near this tower.
- \* Back to the Nannell: the ship has had problems with the aerial tower and is forced to sail back to Santander. Repairs are being carried out and the ship leaves Santander for the second time. This time the mast collapsed in full length off the French coast. The ship continues its journey and drops anchor 30 miles off the coast of Blankenberge. Remark: we have NO confirmations whether the happenings after the first problems with the mast are really truth! As from the moment the ship sails back to Santander, the mystery starts! According to several persons the ship did really drop anchor off the Belgian coast.... The ship is renamed in Mi Amigo II.
- \* It doesn't happen that often that British SW stations are raided. Laser Radio has the dubious honour being raided by British authorities. It seems it has also something to do with a FM operation. The raid takes place Sun June 18th.

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\* Especially time problems cause a week's delay of the FRS-Holland June trm which takes place June 25th with a mighty fine signal on 7310 kHz. Disappointing is the number of letters coming from the UK. A little investigation learns that FRSH is by far the strongest station that Sunday in the UK, stronger than all UK stations broadcasting that Sunday. So it is NOT the reception quality causing the lack of response from the UK. Lack of interest??

The negotiations with the person willing to put our shows on the air from a brandnew and safe location fail simply because this guy is NOT RELIABLE. It's too risky to trust somebody who is not 100% reliable. The June trm is the last one for the time being because preparations are being made to bring a few changes. New ideas, a kind of new jingle-package etc. FRSH hopes to be back in September.

### J U L Y

- \* The MV Communicator ups anchor and leaves the W-European waters heading for Portugal where a lot of work will be carried out to prepare the ship for a new broadcasting adventure.
- \* The MV Nannell remains a mystery. A kind of ghost ship. Big question: where is she now?? Off the Belgian coast or....????
- \* Atlantic 252 is (almost) ready to commence the first series of test-transmissions. Right at the end of July, Mon July 31st, the 1st test is carried out: a 600 Hz tone with a power of only 50 kW.
- \* No FRS-Holland transmission. Preparations start to bring back FRSH with a new sound. And.....Holidays...!!! FRSH introduces a brand-new address.

### A U G U S T

- \* The news is ofcourse the raid on the Ross Revenge August 19th. A lot of studio and transmitting equipment is confiscated plus the whole record collection. It is also the definitive end of Radio 819. The Dutch OCD action causes quite a stir. Thousands of Anoraks are upset but also angry.
- \* Rumours with regard to the Communicator and the Nannell continue. It's a pity that most of these rumours are not being confirmed.
- \* Two popular German SW stations return on the airwaves: PFBS & SWR.
- \* Nighttime broadcasts on SW are getting more and more popular. A growing number of stations like the idea of nightbroadcasts. To mention just a few: PFBS, The Voice of The Netherlands, Radio Stella, WMR Scotland, Radio Confusion and last but not least Radio Rainbow Germany, one of the stations introducing this trend (and one of the most active nighttime broadcasters as well).
- \* FRS-Holland is not back on the air. Still alot of work has to be done before FRSH is able to return. The station is waiting for a set of voice-overs, recorded by an American dark-brown voice... August is also the month in which FRSH 'celebrates' its 9th Birthday. This time in' silence...

### S E P T E M B E R

- \* What a strange situation: silence on 558, 819 & 6215. The Radio 819 project is 'past' but the Caroline organisation announces the station will return within a limited period. Nobody beleives this story but.....already at the end of September test tones are heard on 558 kHz. And the tone's are indeed coming from the Northsea. It appears that Chief Engineer Peter Chicago

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has converted the SW tx (which has only little damage because of the raid) into a AM unit. A masterpiece!!

- \* There are rumours of Communicator leaving the port of Lissabon but these reports are NOT true. A Swiss consortium is involved in the plans to bring the ship back on the high seas as a broadcasting vessel. Lots of money are being invested. A 30 kW FM unit is going to be installed as well as a powerful SW tx for religious broadcasts.
- \* Let's do it! With this shout Charlie Wolf opens Atlantic 252 Fri Sept. 1st following a long series of tests covering the whole of August. The station transmits on 254 kHz long wave and power is 500 kW. Only hits are being played, almost non-stop. A bit like Laser 558 in its heydays.
- \* The Nannell is still lying in Int. Waters 30 miles off the Belgian coast!?!? There is even talk of VHF contact between the ship's captain and people on land. Are there Belgian people behind the project? Names of Patrick Valain and A.J. Beirens are mentioned.
- \* Radio Tower, one of the better SW operations in The Netherlands, is celebrating its 1st anniversary Sept. 10th. The station announces a frequency change to 9912 kHz as the station hopes to reach more listeners on that frequency. An extra long Birthday Show is aired on 6240 with very good signal-strength.
- \* Weekend Music Radio announces the station has received many reports from the USA, Canada and even Australia for its test-trms being carried out in the last Summer on 15 MHz as well as other higher frequencies.
- \* FRS-Holland is still preparing a return. Work is still going on.

### O C T O B E R

- \* Radio Caroline officially re-commences trms on 558, unfortunately on very low power. Although many persons hope and think the new antenna system is in use, it appears the latter is not the case. Peter Chicago is heard as a deejay on 558!
- \* The MV Communicator is raided by Portuguese authorities. A lot of equipment is confiscated. Has the Dutch OCD something to do with this raid? The organisation says preparations will continue despite the set-back.
- \* The Nannell is leaving the Int. Waters off the Belgian coast heading for Ireland (Cork). And then it sails to Wexford, also in the Rep. of Ireland. It is announced the financers have withdrawn as a result of the raid on the Ross Revenge in August. The Harvey Bros-sill being in possession of the Nannell- are looking for new financers.
- \* Due to reasons beyond our control, we haven't been able in completing the new set of jingles. We decide to wait another month and plan to return in November when everything is finished.

### N O V E M B E R

- \* It is announced the raid on the Communicator hasn't taken place. The ship only is visited by a few police-men, perhaps even the latter story isn't true. A trick of the Communicator people??
- \* Caroline 558 continues on low power. Viewpoint programming returns on 558 during the evening hours. But hardly anybody is able to listen because of the very poor signal quality....

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\* The MV Nannell leaves Ireland heading for an unknown port in South-England. The ship is sold as a coaster. Other stories claim the ship will be used as a broadcasting vessel in Asian waters. A bit far-fetched, this last story. It is still NOT confirmed whether the ship is really lying in an UK port.

\* FRS-Holland returns on SW but without new jingles etc. Still the work isn't completed. Positive is the test on Nov. 12th when a new powerful 150 W tx is being tried out. A test of 60 min. is carried out in preparation for the return of full pxs a week later. Signal quality on 7310 is very satisfactory. On Nov. 12th nothing is to be heard on 7310. Although the pxs are recorded and the tapes being sent to the location (express!) the tapes don't arrive in time. They arrive on the afternoon of the 12th, too late for being broadcasted... A week later, Sun Nov. 26th, FRSH returns with a good signal on 7310. A 4 hour broadcast is aired across Europe and the listeners are told that the FSH crew has decided to introduce the new programming, jingles, ideas etc. in January 1990. FRS-Holland, a new sound into the 1990's!

## DECEMBER

- \* What a relief. The set of voice-overs from the USA arrive via our mailing address and that enables us to finish off the set of new jingles.
- \* FRS-Holland's last 1989 but moreover last 1980's transmission on December 24th on 48 & 41 mb. For the first time since long on two frequencies. It's the 10th traditional FRSH X-Mas Party!!

### RECTIFICATION:

- \* The Atlanta 10th Birthday broadcast didn't take place in February but in January! Our apologies for this wrong date!

### FORGOTTEN:

- \* In September the last 'Weekly Report' is being published. This very popular highly rated English free radio newsletter always was the most updated source of info with regard to the world of Offshore & the SW bands. The last issue was published Sept. 9th (issue 278). 'WR' leaves a great void. Thanks to Ruth & Barry and all the regular contributors for their more than excellent job. We still miss you.
- \* As it is not enough yet another free radio publication called it a day in September. The last issue - 160 - of RadioTelex came out on the 24th Sept. The magazine was covering the world of SW and was very up-to-date because of being published bimonthly. Björn, you did a great job and the same applies for your regular contributors. Also RT is sadly missed.

### EPILOGUE:

I do realize this 1989 Annual Report isn't complete. I have done an attempt to be as complete as possible. I hope I have succeeded. Apologies for the perhaps important events which are not mentioned in the survey.

Peter Verbrugge

Late news: Caroline 558 will be broadcasting a special program on X-Mas Day between 13.00- 17.00 CET featuring several voices from the recent past.

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## THE HISTORY OF ABC RADIO

ABC RADIO has been broadcasting from the tourist resort of Tramore since March 2nd 1982 and was based just a few miles from the city of Waterford. ABC Radio was operated by a team of professional presenters both local and international, most of whom had worked for such well-known offshore radio stations as Radio Caroline and the Voice of Peace. ABC Radio used to broadcast from the most highly powered transmitter in South East Ireland and could be easily received as far afield as Wales and Western England as well as locally in County's Cork, Wexford, Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny and of course Waterford.

In July 1985 the station claimed that it broadcasted to approx. 120,000 people in the South East of Ireland, 24 hours a day. The programme format consisted of a mix of 8 contemporary pop records, 3 oldies and one new album track per hour. In terms of professional radio a cross between CMR and AC material. The weekday schedule was:

- |       |                                    |
|-------|------------------------------------|
| 01.00 | Russ Padmore's Nightshift          |
| 04.00 | Sunrise 101 with Neil Butler       |
| 07.00 | ABC Breakfast with Richard Staines |
| 10.00 | Dave Hunt                          |
| 13.00 | Timmy Ryan                         |
| 16.00 | Drive with Tony Murrel             |
| 19.00 | Rocky Cleare's Music Zone          |
| 22.00 | Late Night Affair with Jimmy Ryan  |



The news was broadcasted on top of the hour between 07.00 and 02.00 and in the night at 04.00 and 06.00 hours. On average about 8 minutes per hour during daytime consisted of commercials, with about two minutes the average at night. For those interested in the studio-equipment, here's a list:

### Main on air studio:

- \* 2 Technics SP10 mkII record decks with SME series 3 arms
- \* 2 Shure SC35C Cartridges
- \* 1 Citronic SM607 mixer
- \* 2 Spotmaster Stereo cartridge machines
- \* 2 Nikko cassette machines
- \* 1 Marantz tuner
- \* 1 Leak amplifier
- \* 2 ITT studio monitors
- \* 1 Emla phone patch
- \* 2 AKG D202 microphones
- \* 1 pair Sennheiser headphones



### Production studio:

- \* Fostex A-2 reel to reel tape machine
- \* Spotmaster cartridge recorder
- \* JVC cassette machine
- \* Custom 6 channel mixing desk
- \* 2 Pioneer record decks
- \* AKG microphone
- \* Koss headphones

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On 1026 kHz the station was using a 'Gates BC' 1 kW AM transmitter. The audio was processed by a specially designed and built audio processor, model AM110. The antenna was an inverted L, quarter wavelength. On 100.7 MHz the station used an ABC FM200 audio processor with stereo enhancer, Nouva Electronics Multiplex stereo coder, ELT electronics synthesized exciter/driver and custom built QQV06-40 amplifier. The antenna was a 10dB gain stacked system, giving an ERP of some 800 watts.

#### History

ABC Radio commenced broadcasting on 2-3-82 on 729 kHz AM with 150 watts, stereo FM on 101.3 MHz started 3 weeks later making ABC Radio one of the first stations outside of Dublin to use proper Multiplex stereo. In May 1982 a tx fire totally destroyed the AM tx and a standby tx, having only an output of 40 watts, had to be used until August of that year. The station then bought a Gates 1 kW transmitter from the USA. Due to the impending opening of RTE 1 in Cork on 729 kHz, the new tx was operated on 1008 kHz for about a month when interference from Hilversum in Holland caused the station to move to 1026 kHz. Also at that time the 40 watts standby tx was switched off. In May 1983 they replaced the original FM exciter with the ELT synthesized PLL exciter, resulting in improved audio quality and rock solid stability of frequency. It allowed the station everywhere in the frequency range between 88 and 108 MHz in 120 kHz steps. At that time the station was broadcasting on 101.1 MHz as they found that many sets in Ireland could be switched from AM to FM and there was no need to change the radio dial. In December 1984 ABC Radio moved its operation from Tramore to Waterford City, as 95% of its customers were from Waterford! The AM tx was left in Tramore, because it was simply impractical to operate such power efficiently in a city centre. In March 1985 the station was forced to move the FM channel to 100.7 MHz due to a new station in Wexford opening up on 101.1 MHz and consequently causing interference. The station of course is no longer on air following the Irish government's decision to legalise the bands but only permit certain stations to broadcast across the country.

#### PRIVATE STATIONS

Name, Location and H. of tr.

kHz	kW	
1) 531	5	Sunshine R. Dublin: 24h
2) 657	0.2	Bray Local Broad: 0600-2200
3) 729	1	ABC Radio, Tramore: 0500-2100
4) 728	1	Lensier, Sandycove: 0600-2000
5) 828	50	CBC, Connell: 0600-1800
6) 945	50	R. Caro-Anne, Athlone: 0700-1800
7) 945		Treble 1 Radio, Dublin: 0630-2300
9) 999		Community R. Wicklow: 0700-1900
10) 999		Tipperary Community R: 1000-2000
11) 1035	1	Westside R. Dublin: 0700-2300
12) 1062		R. Carousie, Castlebarney: 0600-2400
13) 1116	0.6	Big D Automation: 0600-2300
12) 1125	0.5	R. Carousie Dundalk: 0600-2400
14) 1125		R. Caro-Anne, Athlone: 0700-1900
15) 1131		Cork City Local R.
16) 1134	0.2	Alternative R. Dublin: 0600-2300
17) 1134	0.15	Alternative R. West. Mayo
18) 1161	0.9	R. City, Dublin: 0600-2300
19) 1161		Midland Community R. Portlaoise: 0600-2400
21) 1188		R. Dublin Channel 1: 24h
22) 1197		Talstar Community R: 0600-2300
23) 1197		Waterford Local R: 0630-2400
20) 1201v		Anklow Community R. Blackrock: 1000-1800
21) 1250	0.04	R. Dublin Channel 2: 0700-2300
25) 1260	0.1	R. Siglo: 0800-1900
26) 1298	0.35	Alternative R. Cork
27) 1305		Community R. Drogheda: 24h
28) 1312v		Capital Radio, Cork: 0600-2100
29) 1314		South City R. Dun Laoghaire: 0530-2400
30) 1314	0.6	Northern R. Omagh: 0800-1700

#### FRS SALES PRODUCTIONS

\*the widest selection in  
sw free radio tapes \*radio  
documentaries \*offshore\*  
usa radio \*video \*jingles\*

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#### SPECIAL DISCOUNTS!

«order our sales-list»

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70p in cash or stamps \*\$1.00\*  
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from the WRKI 1983 edition

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AUCKLAND'S BEST MUSIC

September 26th 1970 Radio Hauraki started a second, this time legal period in its life. Nowadays commercial radio is in New Zealand a way of life, comparable with the situation in Great Britain. However, Radio Hauraki's offshore-period clearly differs from its European counterparts. Firstly it would be impossible to keep an offshore station going like Hauraki did. Both radio-ships (called Tiri 1 and Tiri 2) sailed into harbours (while broadcasting) several times in case of emergency. Imagine: a stormy Northsea, Radio Veronica entering Scheveningen, in the meantime continuing broadcasting! Impossible!

The original set-up very much looked like the preparing of the Delmore-ships. Hardly seaworthy, bad equipment, low capital and so on. Hauraki's advantage possible was the intelligence of a certain Gapes. David Gapes described Hauraki's success on the high seas as follows: a matter of the right decision at the right moment from the right people with the right spirit. In the coming issues of "FRS GOES DX" we will look at the offshore-period of Radio Hauraki. At a later stage we will pay attention to the current situation of Radio Hauraki. Therefore we have made contact with Hauraki's breakfast (and most popular) deejay Kevin Black, who was a Caroline-jock in the Sixties.

In 1965 David Gapes challenged the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation, which was serving the people of New Zealand with "1950-radio" at that time.

Gapes, from Wellington, was a journalist, specialized in investigating "strange stories". Therefore he travelled every now and then to Australia and England. In the latter country he discovered a type of radio sounding fresh and free in his ears. Gapes got aware of Radio Caroline and was impressed by the fact the foundations of this station were made of an anchor and anchorchain.

Not only the New Zealand radiosituation was upsetting David Gapes, but also the fact that there was a lot of conservatism in his country. For instance bars had to be closed at 18.00 and cinemas and theatres should be closed on sundays.

Gapes got the idea to tackle the system, especially the very old-fashioned radio-structure.

Gapes was a total outsider regarding radio, but Bruce Baskett, an Australian radio-journalist was willing to invest his savings, some \$1,000 (!). Gapes decided to move towards the capital Auckland to involve more interested people into the project. First of these was John Tannahill, Gapes' lawyer. At first they were investigating the structure of the coming enterprise and looking for a suitable mooring for a ship. Such a place was quite hard to find, regarding the strange structure of New Zealand with a lot of islands. They found a mooring at Coleville Channel, 36°20' South and 175°15' East. The estimated capital they needed to invest into the station reached between 20 and 40 thousand dollars. Bruce got \$1,000 to put into the project, Gapes and his wife Wendy about \$2,000. So the whole idea looked an unrealistic dream. But Gapes couldn't manage to get it out of his mind.

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DX

Winter 1965 the Gapes had to work very hard, accept additional work and live very sober to build up some reserve capital to enable the start of the project in 1966. Gapes was convinced advertisers would find the way to his station in large amounts, because there was a waiting-list of two years at NZBC. Furthermore advertising cigarettes was forbidden. Some people at Rothmans Tobacco assured Gapes they would advertise and that gave him some perspective.

Dennis O'Callahan was an expert in the field of broadcasting equipment and the building in of it. Though he had left New Zealand for New Caladonia he got a letter from Gapes, writing to him: "Don't think we got mad, we are very serious." Dennis' answer started with "Wow" and ended with the promise to offer his services.

Summer Of 1966 was very pleasant. Gapes had rented a house with a view on Okahu Bay, stimulating him to daydream about a succesful offshore radio-station. But the project didn't progress very well.

Nevertheless Gapes visited advertising agencies were he was received very positively. In the person of Jim Walton he found the right man to calculate Hauraki's advertising-rates. However finding 10 advertisers, each willing to put \$ 4,000 into the project was a much bigger problem.

Private persons were too afraid to invest money because of the risks. This meant they had to collect the money from enterprises. However, a first attempt, at Rothmans, February 1966, failed. Yet Gapes managed to find a name for his station according to the name of a bay near the chosen mooring: Hauraki Bay.

Bruce Baskett couldn't handle the sober life anymore and went back to Australia, while a certain Jim Frankham offered one of his ships to Gapes. O'Callahan came back to New Zealand for the technical side of the enterprise. March 1966 the decision was made to use a frequency of 1480 kHz. In the meantime O'Callahan made a design for the furnishing of the ship.

In 1965 two employees of NZBC became aware of the fact English offshore stations were succesful and they got the idea to start their own radio-ship off the New Zealand coast. At that time Derek Lowe and Chris Parkinson hadn't heard of a certain Gapes yet. So they were very shocked when they read in the papers about Gapes' plans in March 1966. They decided to visit David and Wendy Gapes. After a night-long talk about the Hauraki project they decided to join Gapes. In the coming period Gapes and Lowe would concentrate on Hauraki, while Parkinson and Callahan would be working "normal" to earn income for the four of them.

In the meantime Hauraki had become subject of talk at NZBC. However, there was no comment given to the press, except the suggestion the Minister of Post (Jack Scott), who was also responsible for marine-affairs, should hold a careful eye on the project and undertake a close investigation. Scott replied he didn't know if his influence would reach that long. So there was no direct government action to come.

# Offshore FLASH BACK

THE HISTORY OF RADIO 270 by Hans Knot. - Part 4

## PROBLEMS WITHIN THE ORGANISATION

In February 1967 Will Proudfoot had big problems with several shareholders, that didn't stay unnoticed. In early March some of the shareholders announced that they wished to change the office address and that they didn't want to use the services of Proudfoot any longer. A spokesman of the shareholders said amongst others: "There has been unrest in the organisation for quite a while and we disagree on a large range of subjects and decisions made by Proudfoot. We have lost confidence in him. He is incapable to run a radiostation." Proudfoot reacted imperturbately: "This is the second time they are trying to kick out of my seat. We'll just wait and see and also this time I'm sure to survive." Besides to the reported problems with the regular transmission breakdowns of 270 a lot of advertisers were pulling back, which meant a substantial lower income for 270. Also a number of deejays had left Radio 270 in the mean time, especially because of the bad weather conditions. At the end of the special shareholdersmeeting Proudfoot turned out, as he had already predicted, to be the strong man and he stayed in power. None of the shareholders turned out to vote against him and the final vote of confidence was a complete victory for Proudfoot and his fellow managers.

## ELECTIONS

In May 1967 general elections were held in Great-Britain and both Radio Caroline and Radio 270 played themselves in at an early stage. One of the MP's even stated that the offshore stations were influencing the voters. Mr. Crossman, leader of the House of Representatives answered to this: "I don't know what they are up to, but if they are doing what I think they do, I hope that they tell all the listeners to vote correctly and for the correct candidates." The Postmaster General took the case more seriously. Mid April he said that intervention of the offshore stations in the upcoming elections was being investigated and that, if necessary, appropriate measures would be taken. At the same time Proundfoot announced that paid political advertisements would be heard on his station in the near future. Candidates of the local political branches would have the chance to give their views in 20 words, 5 times per candidate. Ofcourse only the Conservatives used this opportunity, the Labourparty being sharply against the offshore radio scene. At last Proundfoot announced that on the first of May the first political broadcast would take place.

(to be continued)

We would like to thank each and everyone who made it possible that 'FRS Goes DX' could be published in a regular way over 1989. Without your help we wouldn't have been able to carry out this heavy job. Thank you. Special thanks to Els who was responsible for the cover of this special X-Mas edition of 'FRS Goes DX'.

Special  
Marten for  
ten work  
the whole  
envelopes  
least  
to our

## SHORT WAVE ADDRESSES number 1-4

- 1 = P.O.Box 41 - 7700 AA Dedensvaart - The Netherlands.
- 2 = P.O.Box 220 342 - D-5600 Wuppertal - West-Germany.
- 3 = P.O.box 5 - Hunstanton - Norfolk PE36 5AU - UK.
- 4 = P.O.Box 19074 - 3501 DB Utrecht - The Netherlands.

thanks to  
all the compu-  
and printing  
series of  
Last but not  
thanks  
printer!



## The Story So Far

Conceived:	May 1987.
Born:	8.00 a.m. Friday 1st September 1989.
Place of Birth:	A large Victorian house in the town of Trim, Co. Meath, Ireland. Trim is an ancient market town of c.5,000 people and is situated at a ford on the River Boyne.
Callsign/Name:	ATLANTIC 252.
Parents Name:	Radio Luxembourg and Radio Telefis Eireann.
Broadcast Frequency:	252 KHZ on the Long Wave Band.
First Words Spoken:	"Mine is the first voice you will ever hear on Atlantic 252" – Gary King.
First Record Played:	"Sowing the Seeds of Love" – Tears for Fears.
Studios:	Mornington House, Summerhill Road, Trim, Co. Meath. Ireland. Telephone (010-353-46) 36655.
Transmitter Site:	Approximately 25 miles North West of Dublin. One main on-air studio, one pre-production plus one standby studio. All our Presenters broadcast standing up!
Transmitter Power Output:	500,000 Watts.
Transmitter	2 x 300 kw Continental – manufactured by Varian Associates in Dallas, Texas. Installed by Engineers from R.T.E.
Transmitter Tower:	3 sided 248 metres high.
Tuning Guide:	Tell your friends how to find Atlantic 252. Switch your radio to long wave and tune 'till you hear the hits. To improve reception try turning your 'Tranny' to the left or right.

Personnel:  
Travis Baxter – Station Manager  
– The man at the helm of the ship!  
  
Paul Kavanagh – Head of Music  
– Previously with Sunshine Radio  
in Dublin

John Catlett – Consultant  
– The power behind Lazer 558

Dave Atkey  
– Promotions Co-ordinator  
– Previously Executive Producer  
with BBC Radio 1

Presenters:  
Gary King – U.K.  
Henry Owens – Irish  
Tony West – U.K.  
Dusty Rhodes – Irish  
  
Charlie Wolf – U.S.A.  
Al Dunne – Irish  
Jeff Graham – U.K.  
Paul Kavanagh – Irish

News-Team:  
Andrew Turner – U.K.  
Maryellen O'Brien – U.S.A.  
  
Music Format:  
Contemporary hits with a strong percentage of music from the last 4 years.  
Other material includes a selection of the greatest hits of the 80's with  
some special tracks included from the 60's and 70's.

General Mail Address:  
Atlantic 252  
PO Box 252  
London W1E 2RA

Advertising Airtime:  
Mr. Brian Mellor, Sales & Marketing Director,  
R.T.L. Media Sales,  
Telephone Number – London 493 5961

## On Air Schedule

Monday – Friday:  
06.00 – 09.00 Gary King Atlantic 252 Sixty Seconds News  
09.00 – 12.00 Henry Owens Headlines with Andrew Turner and  
12.00 – 14.00 Tony West Maryellen O'Brien throughout the  
14.00 – 16.00 Dusty Rhodes morning Monday – Saturday.  
16.00 – 19.00 Charlie Wolf

Saturday:  
06.00 – 10.00 Al Dunne  
10.00 – 13.00 Charlie Wolf  
13.00 – 16.00 Dusty Rhodes  
16.00 – 19.00 Jeff Graham

Sunday:  
06.00 – 10.00 Jeff Graham  
10.00 – 14.00 Al Dunne  
14.00 – 16.00 Maryellen O'Brien  
16.00 – 19.00 Paul Kavanagh

14.00 – 19.00 Classic Rock Sunday.

# «FRS GOES DX» THE MAGAZINE FOR FREE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS

Supplement 'FRS Goes DX'  
issue 88/ Nov. 1989

SATURDAY AUGUST 19TH 1989: A TRAGIC DAY.....

# «FRS GOES DX» THE MAGAZINE FOR FREE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS

18.8.89 Press officer of Dutch Justice, Mijnssen: "We have no intention at all to board the radiovessel at sea, we learnt a lot with the Paradijs case."

18.8.89 DTI Press officer: "We have no intention at all boarding the Caroline vessel, unless permission is granted to us."

19.8.89 Chicago, after one of the Dutch boarders, a police-officer, went to draw a pistol from it's holster: "Am I going to be shot?" (A hit in Chicago's face followed causing injury).

19.8.89 One of the crewmembers tried to intercept and another police-officer warned him: "I'll knock your fucking head off!"

19.9.89 Chr. Kennedy: on Radio Caroline: "Radio Caroline, we love you too much to leave you forever."

19.9.89 Nigel Harris: "A good question: Do you know what it's like to be free? Over the years, since Easter 1964 we have known what it's like to be free. The only trouble about freedom is that it scares a lot of people, particular the people who've been solved or not free and when they see Freedom the only way they think of to do is to stamp this out. Radio Caroline refuses to be stamped out!"

19.9.89 Ronan O'Rahilly after DTI proclaimed they had only be on the Landward to observe the boarding party by Dutch authorities: "It's just like the case of Nürnberg."

19.9.89 Dijkstra, Head 'Opsporings Dienst Clandestiene Zenders' (GPO department for raids on illegal stations) in the NOS programma 'Oog op Morgen': 'We have complaints from several countries, including Sweden and Hungaria, that the station was interfering on maritime frequencies.'

19.9.89 Hans Knot in the same programme: "Nonsense, we've heard this since the start of Radio Veronica in 1960. Caroline doesn't interfere and Hungaria has no navy."

19.9.89 Dijkstra: 'Right, indeed there're too less ships in Hungaria.'

19.9.89 Dijkstra: "We're making a fist, for it's time to say goodbye to the offshore pirate stations."

19.9.89 Hans Knot: "Tomorrow the Canadian owners will go to their lawyers and take the Dutch government to court."

19.8.89 Custom Officers in Ramsgate inspected the Landward to investigate whether equipment, removed from the Ross Revenge, was aboard. Peter Moore from the Caroline organisation: "We wanted to know whether the Dutch or British sailed away with our equipment. We now know for sure: the Dutch did it."

19.8.89 Chicago: "The Dutch had an official order to impound, but it was just official vandalism."

19.8.89 Chicago: "We're going to start again. We're not going to give up. In fact it's made us even more determined to get back on-air. The only way we can triumph is to go back on! If they do come back we won't start any violence, we will resist and will even leave ourselves open to injury to doing so."

19.8.89 Hans Knot: "I'm totally shocked and horrified. Dutch authorities have made the Netherlands a police-state. The boarding of the Caroline vessel is an act of piracy! DTI officials said they were only there on a vessel, the MV Landward, to observe the case. The question is what a guy, who presented himself as Jim Murphy, did on the Ross Revenge. I'm certain he was not there to play records like Big Jim Murphy did in the Sixties on Caroline."

19.8.89 Dijkstra (OCZ): "The raid was not against Caroline and WMR. We took their transmitters and equipment because these transmitters were also used by Radio 819".

21.9.89 Hans Knot: I'm believing, for 100%, that Radio Caroline will return. Caroline is a part of Western Europe's Radio History. Without Caroline the radio scene isn't real! Give them a break for about 6 months, but I know for sure they will be back before their 26th birthday and I hope also they'll never go to sea again with a Dutch organisation!"

20.8.89 Howard G. Rose: "What happened this weekend was far from dignified. If there is ever to be an end for Radio Caroline I think we would all like it to be dignified."

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